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NSC BRIEFING

30 July 1958

BOURGUIBA'S SPEECH

- I. Bourguiba's speech 25 July on first anniversary of Tunisian Republic was 90 minute review of domestic and foreign affairs.
- II. Internal Situation:
 - A. Tunisia stable and secure due to sagacious govt and loyalty of Tunisian people.
 - B. Govt has made great strides despite economic weakness and unemployment.
 - C. Popularity govt intact after 2½ years.
- III. Foreign policy:
 - A. Results of pro-Western orientation satisfactory, if not all that was desired.
 - B. He discerned opposition in West to imperialism, hegemony and exploitation. Tunisia must encourage progress toward dispelling imperialism.
 - C. Tunisia embarrassed by some Arab states appeals to bloc to free them from colonialist vestiges.
 - D. US landing in Lebanon: Considered superficially, this is an error; "but we don't have habit ...of holding superficial view of things."
 - E. "I have never had any confidence in international Communism and Soviet Russia." "I prefer to cooperate with those who inspire confidence in me."

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1. Czechoslovakia under Benes and Hungary under Nagy are two examples what results from aligning with Soviets. There can be no comparison between landing of Marines at request of chief of state and the Soviet armies which entered Hungary two years ago.
 2. US troubled and embarrassed by landings in Lebanon, want to retire to make way for UN. On other hand, Russians forced UN access to Hungary and unleashed wave of extermination and tortures.
- F. Iraq. "We cannot say that it was a revolution inspired from abroad... I knew certain members of the new government... all complained to me about the fallen regime, but I know that they have no leaning toward Russia or Communism... That is why I recognized so quickly the Iraqi Republic."
- G. United States must reconsider its policy toward Near East. It must cease supporting colonialist France in Algeria, or similar regimes such as that which existed in Iraq.
1. American can exert greater influence on its allies; she is in a position to impose solutions on them, but remains solicitous of France.
 2. Algerian people suffer martyrdom under American bombs all because America does not dare to employ firm and trenchant language forceful enough to oppose error and passion.
 3. America must apply new policy unfailingly.

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4. If America despairs of Near East and Africa and retires to its tent, renounces its bases, and abandons all the world, 24 hours would not pass before Russian armies would have occupied Western Europe "which enjoys acting as spoiled children."

H. I am not a creature of America and am insensible to fear and temptation. "What I tell you is the undisguised truth. I do not hesitate to criticize America when it is necessary."

IV. Members Tunisian cabinet somewhat startled by Bourguiba's vigor in defending US motives in Lebanon and attacking USSR. Shook heads in wonderment; said: "what a man--what courage--he is unique among Arab leaders."

A. After speech, American ambassador approached by leader of Tunisian women's organization who remarked: "We are now more exposed than ever. We must absolutely have US arms to defend ourselves. FLN could attack us at any moment."

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